In the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application:

1. - 25. (Canceled)

1   26. (New)   A method for limiting disclosure of a first description of a project for at least one
2   of research and development, the method comprising:
3   accessing aggregated first data describing a set of suppliers and aggregated second
4   data describing the project to identify a first subset of suppliers of the plurality, each supplier of
5   the first subset having a quantitative extent of correspondence between the respective first data
6   and the second data; wherein:
7   (1) determining the respective quantitative extent of correspondence and
8   identifying the respective supplier to the first subset are performed by a stored program
9   computer;
10   (2) aggregated first data describing the plurality of suppliers comprises for each
11   supplier:
12   (a) indicators of subject matter, wherein the subject matter is known to the
13   supplier; and
14   (b) quantitative indicators of supplier qualities including at least one of
15   years of practice, quantity of academic accomplishments, quantity of patents held, magnitude or
16   quantity of grants received, and magnitude or quantity of contracts awarded;
17   (3) aggregated second data describing the project comprises:
18   (a) indicators of particular subject matter including at least one of
19   particular subject matter to be invented, particular subject matter to be reduced to practice, and
20   particular subject matter for a commercial product; and
21   (b) quantitative indicators of particular supplier qualities including at least
22   one of particular minimum years of practice, particular minimum quantity of academic
23   accomplishments, desire minimum quantity of patents held, particular minimum magnitude or
24   quantity of grants received, and particular minimum magnitude or quantity of contracts awarded;
25   and
26   reporting the first subset of suppliers for a first restricted distribution of the first
27   description of the project for a buyer seeking a supplier having a desired capacity for at least one

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28 of inventing, reducing to practice, or developing the commercial product, the first description

29 comprising the indicators of particular subject matter.

1 27. (New)   The method of claim 26 further comprising:

2   receiving a plurality of proposals, each respective proposal from a member of the first

3 subset;

4   accessing the aggregated first data to identify a second subset of suppliers, each

5 member of the second subset having indicators of particular subject matter known to the member

6 corresponding to the indicators of particular subject matter; and

7   providing a multiplicity of the plurality of proposals to a member of the second subset

8 for identifying a supplier of the first subset to be eliminated from a second restricted distribution

9 of a second description of the project.

1 28. (New)   The method of claim 26 further comprising aggregating the first aggregated data

2 wherein aggregating comprises:

3   searching an information network to identify search results; and

4   indexing the identified search results to provide keyword access.

1 29. (New)   The method of claim 28 wherein:

2   aggregating further comprises storing a record according to at least a portion of a

3 message received from the information network; and

4   indexing comprises analyzing the record.

1 30. (New)   The method of claim 26 further comprising conducting the first restricted

2 distribution in accordance with the report.

1 31. (New)   The method of claim 26 wherein the report is ordered in accordance with the

2 quantitative extent of correspondence.

1 32. (New)   A system for limiting disclosure of a first description of a project for at least one

2 of research and development, the system comprising:

3 means for accessing aggregated first data describing a set of suppliers, wherein the

4 aggregated first data describing the plurality of suppliers comprises for each supplier:

5 (1) indicators of subject matter, wherein the subject matter is known to the

6 supplier; and

7 (2) quantitative indicators of supplier qualities including at least one of years of

8 practice, quantity of academic accomplishments, quantity of patents held, magnitude or quantity

9 of grants received, and magnitude or quantity of contracts awarded;

10 means for accessing aggregated second data describing the project to identify a first

11 subset of suppliers of the plurality, each supplier of the first subset having a quantitative extent

12 of correspondence between the respective first data and the second data, wherein the aggregated

13 second data describing the project comprises:

14 (1) indicators of particular subject matter including at least one of particular

15 subject matter to be invented, particular subject matter to be reduced to practice, and particular

16 subject matter for a commercial product; and

17 (2) quantitative indicators of particular supplier qualities including at least one of

18 particular minimum years of practice, particular minimum quantity of academic

19 accomplishments, desire minimum quantity of patents held, particular minimum magnitude or

20 quantity of grants received, and particular minimum magnitude or quantity of contracts awarded;

21 and

22 means for determining the respective quantitative extent of correspondence and

23 identifying the respective supplier to the first subset; and

24 means for reporting the first subset of suppliers for a first restricted distribution of the

25 first description of the project for a buyer seeking a supplier having a desired capacity for at least

26 one of inventing, reducing to practice, or developing the commercial product, the first

27 description comprising the indicators of particular subject matter.

1 33. (New) The system of claim 32 further comprising:

2 means for receiving a plurality of proposals, each respective proposal from a member

3 of the first subset;

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4   means for accessing the aggregated first data to identify a second subset of suppliers,

5   each member of the second subset having indicators of particular subject matter known to the

6   member corresponding to the indicators of particular subject matter; and

7   means for providing a multiplicity of the plurality of proposals to a member of the

8   second subset for identifying a supplier of the first subset to be eliminated from a second

9   restricted distribution of a second description of the project.

1   34. (New)   The system of claim 32 further comprising means for aggregating the first

2   aggregated data wherein the means for aggregating comprises:

3   means for searching an information network to identify search results; and

4   means for indexing the identified search results to provide keyword access.

1   35. (New)   The system of claim 34 wherein:

2   the means for aggregating further comprises means for storing a record according to

3   at least a portion of a message received from the information network; and

4   the means for indexing comprises means for analyzing the record.

1   36. (New)   The system of claim 32 further comprising means for conducting the first

2   restricted distribution in accordance with the report.

1   37. (New)   The system of claim 32 wherein the report is ordered in accordance with the

2   quantitative extent of correspondence.

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